

## **Boxborough Energy Committee January 2015 Minutes**

**Date/Location:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015, Town Hall

**Attending:** Members: Margo Webber, Francie Nolde, Abby Reip, Larry Grossman, Santiago Tapia-Perez, Kesahva Srivastava

**BOS Representative:**

**Guests:** Rebecca Morrison

**Members Absent:** Richard Garrison and Vince Amoroso

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015, Town Hall.

### **Minutes**

#### **General business**

- Both November and December minutes were approved.
- Vince Amoroso was attending the CPA meeting so was unable to attend
- New Hunter Douglas blinds had been installed on the windows in the Town Hall
- Francie wants the energy committee to look in to idling retrofits for the Police and Fire Trucks. The committee should determine if there is a way to keep the batteries charged and operating the radio communications systems without the trucks turned on and idling.
- Francie will invite Jane Appel of Concord and Jim Snyder-Grant of Acton to attend a Boxborough Energy Committee meeting to discuss their work on the Solarize program in their Towns. Concord also has a MUNI electric company.

#### **Main Discussion**

The main discussion was about the Solar Initiative. Richard had drafted three different proposed timetables for implementing a Solarize program. All three timetables are contingent upon LELD notifying the EnCom about net metering by March 2015. In past discussion with Francie, LELD had indicated that they would decide if they would allow more net metering and if so, how much, by late spring early summer. If LELD does not allow any more net metering, residents will have less incentive to sign up for a Solar system. The committee decided that Francie and Larry or Richard should try to meet with LELD to get an answer. The EnCom should present LELD with information on what the Town needs, backed up with numbers. For example, if “XX” homes sign up, with “YY” Capacity on each home, the Town would like “WW” amount of net metering. The EnCom can’t push LELD too much since in the past LELD has given a lot to the Town, but if they express their request with back up data and explanations, LELD might be more amenable to helping. Boxborough should also see if the net metering can be specific to Boxborough since all past net metering amounts were taken up by Littleton residents.

The approved Solar Initiative schedule must allow all construction to occur before the end of 2016 when the SREC tax credits will stop. The schedule will need to include a few Solar 101

meetings for the Town and a brief presentation at the May Town meeting. An RFP needs to be sent out by Selina on behalf of the Town. Francie and Richard have met with the BOS to get their approval for this step. Once companies have sent in their proposals, a committee needs to assemble to review the proposals. Larry has reviewed many proposals and has agreed to come up with a checklist for review of proposals and vendor qualifications. This process will take at least three months. Following approval of a vendor, the EnCom would have a 3-4 month timeframe for soliciting homeowners to sign up. This timeframe should not be during the summer, when people are on vacation, or during the Nov-Dec timeframe with all the holidays. The EnCom decided that a timetable for implementing the Solar initiative will all be based on when LELD decides if they will grant more net metering.

The second part of the discussion was with Rebecca Morris, the EnCom representative on the Master Plan committee. Rebecca recommended that Boxborough try to have 50% of all electric use in Boxborough be renewable energy within 10 years. The committee stated that this was much too aggressive, and if net metering is not granted by LELD, will not be achievable because few people would install solar panels. The committee agreed that even a 20% goal would be ambitious, but more realistic. This goal would also coincide with what Green Communities are trying to achieve.